

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**In re U.S. Patent Application of**  
**OHTA et al.**  
**Application Number: To Be Assigned**  
**Filed: Concurrently Herewith**  
**For: QUERY MODIFICATION SYSTEM FOR INFORMATION  
RETRIEVAL**

**Honorable Assistant Commissioner  
for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231**

## **PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Applicant has amended the claims in order to make them correct in accordance with standard U.S. practice. Prior to an examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please substitute claim 13 with the following amended claim:

13. (Amended) A program for allowing a computer to realize the information retrieval system for retrieving information from a database, said information retrieval system comprising:

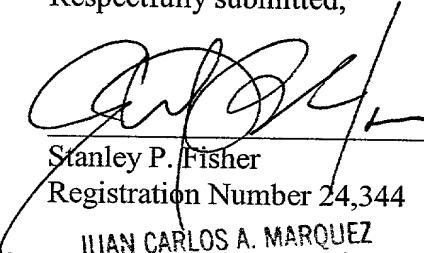
means for representing an input screen for inputting query information; and  
query vector representing means for representing a query conception  
assembled from the inputted query information as a query vector which contains a plurality of keywords and weights of the respective keywords.

**REMARKS**

Applicant has amended claim 13. No new matter has been added to the application as a result of this amendment.

In view of the above amendment and Applicant's comments stated herein, Applicant respectfully requests an early and favorable action on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,



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**Marked Up Version of the Claims**

**13.** (Amended) A program for allowing a computer to realize the information retrieval system for retrieving information from a database, said information retrieval system according to claim 1 comprising:

**means for representing an input screen for inputting query information;**

**and**

**query vector representing means for representing a query conception**  
**assembled from the inputted query information as a query vector which contains**  
**a plurality of keywords and weights of the respective keywords.**